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READ IT FIRST IN THIS PAPER

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Mexico Must Decide; Ultimatum Expires on Wednesday Night

It is Persistently Reported that Negotiations Will Fail

Washington, June 27.—Discussion of the Mexican crisis occupied today's brief session of the cabinet. When it was over Secretary Lansing announced that the administration was awaiting word from General Carranza, and Secretaries Baker and Daniels said no new army or navy orders had been given.

Washington, June 27.—There were clear indications today that if American cavalrymen captured by Mexican troops at Carrizal were not released within forty-eight hours, action would be taken by the United States.

The impression prevailed in official circles that President Wilson would not wait beyond Thursday at the latest, and possibly not beyond tomorrow afternoon for a definite reply from the Carranza Government to the note demanding the immediate release of the prisoners and a declaration of intentions.

Special Agent Rogers at Mexico City reported in an overnight message received early today that he had delivered the note to the Mexican foreign office yesterday morning. He did not indicate how it had been received or what a reply might be expected.

While the diplomatic aspects of the crisis awaited the day's sign, the war department drove forward its efforts to hasten its mobilization of the national guard on the border. It is certain that no aggressive military operations can be undertaken until a substantial number of state troops is available to back up General Funston's regulars, who unquestionably would lead any movement.

President Wilson's first step, should he decide to force the issue, probably would be to lay the whole situation before congress in joint session. It is believed he so informed members of the foreign relations committees of both houses in his conference with them Sunday night.

Specific authority under which the national guard could be employed beyond the border and also authorization for calling out volunteers, would be needed.

It is regarded as certain also that any resolution presented for action would include a reaffirmation of the position of the administration that it is being forced into military action for the defense of its own territory from outlaws, and has no purpose of territorial aggrandizement.

State Department officials took formal notice today of the activities in the United States of agents of the Carranza bureau of information. Reports as to conditions and international relations are telegraphed from Mexico City to the United States by the bureau of publication.

Good Roads.

The North Carolina Good Roads Association, at its last meeting of this year's convention, resolved to do a number of good things. None was more important than the call for State convicts to work State roads; for the prisoners to be utilized in the building of good roads. The resolution bearing on this meets opposition squarely and vanquishes it, when it sets forth the need of these good roads, the fact that State convicts would be helping the entire State; would be engaged upon work which would not compete with labor and would provide healthful toil, as it is performed outdoors.

It could also have added that the idea of exchanging convict labor for stock in some one's private railway project is iniquitous. The State gambles with its labor at the expense of all the people. This is not fair and is decidedly partial. Railroad building is needed, but if private capital cannot back it, and it must be had, let the State go into the business, rather than send convicts here and there, possibly according to the pull of some one, and get nothing from it save some possibility in the far future. This, too, when there is a much better way for the employment of the convict labor—that of building good roads, which help every one and free to all.—Wilmington Dispatch.

ILLUMINATING THE FLAG.

Twenty-four Hour patriotism and New Methods For Lighting the Flag at Night.

In keeping with the nation-wide patriotic movements more American flags are being displayed over public and office buildings, hotels, clubs and homes, than ever before. Not content with all this, ways and means have been found to keep Old Glory flying twenty-four hours a day and to have it illuminated at night.

A new and novel electric flag has been devised purposely for night service. It is made entirely of metal and the larger sizes contain 600 red, white and blue lamps. A mechanical device controls these lamps so that the flag appears to be waving at all times.

Another, and perhaps a more natural way, is to illuminate the flag with flood projectors. In this case a 10-by-15-foot flag is lighted by four flood light projectors mounted on the roof beneath the staff. Each projector is equipped with a 500-watt, gas-filled Mazda lamp with a parabolic reflector to direct the rays on the flag. The effect is to bring out the flag in strong relief against the night.

It is not unusual to see one or more illuminated flags in almost every city. The ideal installation is over the court house or city hall. A large number of manufacturers are also illuminating their flags after dark.

A congressional committee went to a Northwestern State to assist in opening an exposition. There was a parade in the morning, in which all the visiting statesmen rode in automobiles. The local committee brought the cars around to the leading hotel. The scheme was to have two senators or representatives and two local men in each car.

After the vice president and his party had been sent away a local notabilis who was acting as a majordomo came into the lobby of the hotel where the statesmen were waiting and bawled: "Two congressmen and two gentlemen, please!"—Boston Globe.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Sickness is often a mask worn by lazy people.

The faster a man's gait the sooner misfortune overtakes him.

Sometimes a man avoids a lot of worry by having a poor memory.

It's easier to agree with the average man than it is to convince him.

Make truth your motto and guide, and you will be the gainer in the end.

One-half the population of a village knows all about how the other half lives.—Chicago News.

ELECTRICITY OUSTS STEAM

Steam power was recently replaced by electric drive in a New England worsted mill with the result that the increase in production amounts to more than \$5000 a year for the manufacturer.

The mill contains 48 looms which are run at a load factor of 62 per cent and a speed which varies over 11 per cent, due to the irregularities of mechanical driving. The looms operate at any average of 105 per minute, there being 54 picks per inch. On a 59 hour week this yields 119 yards of cloth per loom.

Tests show that with the installation of group-motor drive an average of 112 picks per minute can be obtained, with a load factor of 72 per cent. The resulting output would then be 147 yards per loom per week, or a gain of 28 yards per loom. The selling price of the cloth of \$1.50 per yard, so that the total value of the increased product is \$2016 per week for the 48 looms for a 50-week year, and taking 5 per cent of the selling price as the profit, this equals \$5040. The cost of making the machine, which involves the purchase of six motors aggregating 46 h. p. connected load, was estimated at \$1100. On this basis the electric drive would pay for itself in less than three months.



THE PRESIDENT WILSON AND VICE PRESIDENT MARSHALL.

Aftermath of the Recent Big Democratic Convention

By WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN. (Copyright, 1916, by W. J. Bryan.)

St. Louis, Mo.—The Democratic party has spoken; it has placed upon the nation the issues of its platform. The party has shown its strength in its recent convention. The issues have been laid out, and the country is now ready for the battle which will determine whether the hands of President Wilson shall be upheld or whether Republicans again shall be enthroned upon the seats of the mighty.

By the will of the Democratic national convention, which was marked throughout by harmony and loyalty to the president, the party goes into the coming fight under the same leadership as in 1912, and standing upon a platform which indorses unreservedly the policies of the present administration and embodies declarations of principle around which it is believed people of all classes and of all parties can rally.

Contrast in Conventions.

What a contrast between the convention here and the two conventions at Chicago! At Chicago, pliancy, unrepentant, signalled its return to supreme authority in the Republican party. At St. Louis Democracy assembled to organize its fight to hold the economic reforms secured, maintain neutrality and peace in the midst of a world of war and advance the lines in the direction of greater social justice.

At Chicago, all was chaos. In one convention a number of favorite sons divided the attention of the delegates while the managers, as smooth a group of machine politicians as ever manipulated a party, maneuvered for the carrying out of the plans of the special interests. They did not dare to nominate the man of their choice, but they were in position to select their second choice. The other convention was a case of unrequited affection. No lover ever pleaded his cause more eloquently, and no hard-hearted maiden ever returned a more chilling response.

"I can never marry you, but I shall always be your friend," is cordially itself compared with the colonel's frigid refusal to link his fortunes longer with the Progressive party.

At St. Louis all was harmony and hopefulness. There was no division as to the presidential nomination and little conflict over the vice presidency. There was agreement upon the platform and everybody was happy. The convention was ready to consult the president's pleasure in regard to the issues to be emphasized and the president was as anxious to ascertain the sentiment of the delegates.

The situation could hardly be better from a Democratic standpoint.

If the two branches of the Republican party had conferred in a spirit of friendship and come together on a compromise ticket they might have made a strong fight, but instead of that, the regular Republicans were mereless.

They showed no respect whatever for the wishes or feelings of the Progressives, the old guard was in control and a Republican victory will restore to power those who represent plans and purposes of the plutocratic element.

The Republican party makes the appeal to the standpoint element of the country only. The Progressives are disappointed and disheartened at Roosevelt's refusal to run. They are sheep without a shepherd. They are

open to Democratic appeal—the Democratic party's opportunity is here. It can and should appeal to the Progressives. The president's splendid reform work and the party's record combine to give strength to this appeal.

Would Welcome Progressives.

The delegates to go as far as possible in the direction of making the Democratic position attractive to the homeless Progressives, and the president's attitude on domestic problems makes the task an easy one.

Colonel Roosevelt's attack upon the president was confined to international questions, and the criticisms of the president's course to which the Progressive convention gave indorsement will be discarded along with Mr. Roosevelt. In leaving the Progressive party the colonel carried with him all that was Rooseveltian and left all that was valuable in the way of reform principles and policies. The Democratic convention can please the Progressives in three ways.

Wall Street Controls.

First, it can tell the truth about the Republic's party's subservency to private wealth. The Republican organization is in the hands of the men who are responsible for spreading a Bolshevik's feast for the exploiting of the country. If it ever showed any symptoms of responding to the aroused conscience of a nation it has gone back to its "wallow in the mire." Its invitation is now extended to every special interest and the invitation will call to the Republican banner all the beasts of Wall street. They were once mighty, even to the point of being irresistible, but their methods have been exposed and their support, when understood, is a liability rather than an asset.

The money powers by the firm stand which he took on currency reform, anti-trust legislation and on the tariff question, and he still further offended so-called big business by the appointment of Brandeis to the Supreme bench. He cannot count upon the support of any "of the interests," but just in proportion as he has alienated them he has won the admiration of the rank and file of the Progressive voters.

Social Justice Issue.

Second, the Progressives are very much interested in proposed legislation carrying out their program for social justice. Here, too, the president is in sympathy with their desires, and he is supported in this attitude by the Democratic party. The real reforms proposed by the Progressives in spirit, if not in letter, represent exactly what the Democratic party has been striving for. The party thus attracts the Progressives at the very point where the reactionary Republicans most rebel.

The third means of emphasizing the party's desire to welcome the Progressives will be found in the suppression of the reactionaries in the Democratic party. There are fast growing wheat and they have been allowed to grow lest in uprooting them some wheat might be uprooted also, but the party will be compelled to choose between this small and undesirable element on the one hand, and the large and desirable addition which will find the Democratic party congenial in proportion as the reactionary element is frozen out.

Air is Cleared.

Those whose first allegiance is to the favor-seeking corporations will be frozen out. (Continued on Page 2)

RALEIGH LETTER.

Raleigh, N. C., June 27.—The "calls to arms," which the Mexicans forced upon us, has infused additional "ginger" into the campaign of "America first" patriotism which had already begun to move actively in the political march started by President Wilson and the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis.

In all human probability the plot will thicken fast and it now looks as though nothing can stop our plow from going through to the end of the furrow. Even if European influences could induce Carranza to try to alter his course, he would be unable to do so. The situation across the border is already such that the "first chief" must be judged not by what he might like to do, but by what he cannot avoid.

And it is well. For we have got to do this work sooner or later (many wise men think the job should have been accomplished long ago) and there is no good reason apparent for further delay.

Though not of his seeking, war with Mexico in its political aspect, will help not under the re-election of Woodrow Wilson for President.

War Feeling Helps Existing Administration.

Thousands and hundreds of thousands of patriotic voters, who might have been classed as doubtful or independent a week ago, will not hesitate to support at the polls so painstaking and patient a President, who tried so assiduously and earnestly to compel peace by peace-means compatible with the nation's honor.

The precedents for such outcome this year are not lacking although it is doubtless true that Mr. Wilson would have preferred to make his fight for re-election on a peace basis. But forces which can be guided but cannot be halted now are gathering resistless momentum. Two more countries are being added to the long list of nations at war. Present definitions of our object may not apply later on. They may be greatly amplified.

Troops at Camp Glenn, Morehead City.

Adjutant-General Young reports that Camp Glenn is ready for the mobilization of the troops of the Second regiment, which will arrive Wednesday night, and the Third regiment which is scheduled to be there next Saturday. The First Regiment is already there. It was not practicable to assemble all the North Carolina troops at the mobilization camp on the same day.

Asylum Investigator Ends.

The inquiry into conditions at the Central Hospital for the Insane at Raleigh, which lasted most of the past week, resulted in the explosion of the most serious charges brought against the management, and the board of directors have issued a statement saying "it finds unanimously from the evidence that the charges are not sustained."

Superintendent Anderson and his friends appeared to be satisfied, and the directors of the institution probably know more about the work they have been directing than they did before.

Aside from the voluminous details inquired into (which are beyond the limitations of this correspondence) it is probably a good thing for all concerned that the inquiry was held. For many years there have been periodic revivals of "rumors" of mismanagement and bad conditions at this institution, and it was high time that the taxpayers and people generally were enlightened on the truth or falsity of such rumors.

This inquiry, which has revealed some minor irregularities, and shown where material improvement is yet possible, ought to put a stop to these rumors in the future. It has disclosed the falsity of most of them and proved beyond question that the real work and purpose of such an institution has been started on an advanced and more effective scale, with greatly improved conditions, on "Dix Hill" compared to former conditions there.

The introduction of the pathological department and the useful work which of this laboratory, is thereby enabled to do, was highly praised and commended by a score of leading physicians who were called to testify. It was shown that the new school for nurses is another admirable addition designed for the welfare of the patients. Doctor Anderson in his testimony positively denied one of the most serious of all the charges, and it is to be hoped there will be no cause for its revival in the future, viz., that those who most need treatment there, the indigent insane, are not discriminated against in favor of "pay patients." He also swore on the witness stand that there were not exceeding five whiskey or dope patients there, and that this class of patients never had exceeded ten in number at one time in recent years. That is about one thousand per cent less than the charges alleged.

Latta was not allowed to testify by orders of the hospital physician, who stated it would be unwise to excite him by such experience before a number of people.

Some Current Generalities

Raleigh is justly proud of its local company (Co. B, 3d Reg.), the first of its citizen-soldiers to "mobilize." Its captain, Albert L. Cox, is the son of General William Rufin Cox, of Confederate Army fame, whom he greatly resembles. Blood will tell, and Captain Cox will be heard from if given the opportunity.

Quite a number of Tarheels went from here to witness the presentation of the Vance statue to the United States, in stately hall at Washington, Governor Craig, Secretary of State Grimes and Commissioner of Labor and printing Shipman being the State Executive Officers to attend. They report the occasion a most pronounced success.

The North Carolina State Cotton Seed Crushers Association in session at Raleigh, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Jonathan Havens, of Washington; Vice President, F. C. Dunn, of Kinston; Secretary-Treasurer, Hubert A. White, of Greenville.

The new president of the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association, E. G. Birdsong, is one of Raleigh's most capable and popular druggists, now president of the King-Crowell Drug Company of this city. He is the most popular druggist in Raleigh and his friends are much pleased.

JOINS NATIONAL GUARD.

Besides the three young men of the city who joined the Tarboro company last week, Mr. Archie Bell signed yesterday. One of the boys who left without his parents having been notified has been compelled to come home as the consent of his parents could not be obtained.

CIVIC LEAGUE TO GET BUSY.

At a meeting of the Civic League, yesterday afternoon in the mayor's office it was decided that the league would utilize the funds now in the treasury by cleaning up the back lots behind the stores and the city market. The league has repeatedly called on the property owners to do this but as they have not seen fit to respond to the call the league will take personal charge of the work and have it done out of its own funds.

The committee that was delegated to looking after the Wood property on Main street to have same turned into a park reported favorably and it was decided to petition the town fathers to have all rubbish on the lot removed and to turn the place into a playground and park for the children.

DANCE LAST EVENING.

Last evening the young men of the town gave a dance here in honor of the young ladies in the mayor's office. Music was furnished by the Jesse Hedgepeth orchestra and until a late hour the couples tripped the light fantastic. Quite a number of couples were on the floor at all times and the affair was one of the most enjoyable of the season.

GYPSY TEA.

A Gypsy Tea was held yesterday evening at "Morote," the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Shields, on Roanoke River given by the young men of the town in honor of the visiting young ladies.

A large number of couples were present in their driving out from the city in buggies and cars.

Besides the delicious luncheon provided by the young ladies Mrs. Shields served delicious tea.

CONVICT ROAD FORCE HERE.

Mr. A. T. Dickens of Tillery, superintendent of the Halifax road force was in town Saturday. The road force was camped at present in the outskirts of town, near the Greenwood section.

FIRST COTTON BLOOM.

Mr. Charlie Lawrence brought the first cotton bloom of the season Saturday, the 24th. He plucked it from his Pine Tree Farm on Roanoke river. He states that the bloom is from a stalk of Simpkins prolific cotton, which usually produces an abundance of blooms about this date when the seasons are good.

A RECORD RUN.

Mr. N. A. Riddick, accompanied by Mr. "Bean" Kitchin, went to Charlotte last week to bring over a Buick Six. They made the trip here in one day, having breakfast in Charlotte and supper in Scotland Neck. The midway meal was taken at Durham. The distance covered was approximately 290 miles.

SAMPLE COPIES.

The commonwealth often receives requests from persons for sample copies of the paper. It is a pleasure to mail these out, but the reader should remember that it costs money and time to keep this up incessantly to the same parties. It would be well to invest the price of a year's subscription and save both the office and the man worry and trouble. Mail us your subscription.

NEW BUSINESS AT HALIFAX.

Mr. W. V. Warren has purchased the line of groceries from Mr. G. A. Hux and opened a store across the street from Mr. Hux's place. He will later add a stock of notions.

Riddick to Make 300 Mile Run Saturday

Local Saxon Dealer to Make Great Endurance Run.—Engine will Not be Stopped Until Distance is Covered.

Mr. N. A. Riddick, local Saxon dealer, will on Saturday next, drive a Saxon Six touring car 300 miles without stopping the engine. The feat is to be accomplished as an endurance test. Each of the 2000 Saxon dealers in the United States will go through the same performance on that date.

Mr. Riddick has invited one of the Commonwealth's reporters to make the ride with him, which is authorized by the Saxon Automobile Co., of Detroit. The invitation will be accepted. It is not known just yet what territory Mr. Riddick will cover, but he proposes to leave Scotland Neck in the morning and wind up the trip in the early afternoon.

The total distance to be covered by all the Saxon dealers is 600,000 miles, or about 24 times the distance around the world.

PURE FOOD EXHIBIT.

Next Thursday afternoon and evening, June 29, Mr. Cleve Vaughan, the well known groceryman, will hold in his store on Main street a pure food and honest weight exhibit at which many valuable prizes, ranging from a pound of coffee to a sack of flour, will be given away in a drawing contest.

Mr. Vaughan, who starts this grocery business here some 18 months ago, has built up a wonderfully large patronage and has since starting, conducted a most up-to-date and sanitary grocery.

The exhibit, which will be staged on Thursday will be for the benefit of his customers, both old and new, and Mr. Vaughan states that he hopes that by holding the exhibit a greater number of people will visit his place of business in person, instead of phoning their orders, so that they may see for themselves the sanitary manner in which it is conducted.

Music will be furnished throughout the demonstration and no goods of any kind will be offered for sale.

The firms represented in the exhibit are: Loose-Wiles Co., Sunshine Biscuits, Lexington Roller Mills, Henry Clay Flour.

National Biscuit Co., cakes and crackers. Beechnut Packing Co., Beechnut products.

H. J. Heinz Co., 57 Varieties. Toledo Seales Co., honest weights. Armour & Co., meat products. C. W. Antrim & Co., White Cap brands.

Austin-Nichols Co., Sunbeam products.

CLUB ENTERTAINED.

This morning Mr. Henry M. Hilliard entertained the Thimble Bees club at his home on Church street. Quite a number of guests were present all of whom enjoyed the occasion to the utmost. A delicious sweet course was served by the hostess assisted by Miss Helen Hilliard.

The out of town guests present were Miss Minnie Mills of Wake Forest and Miss Margaret Joyner of Garysburg.

SALARIES INCREASED.

Officials of the A. C. L. railroad company who have asked the officials for a 10 per cent increase in salary and 15 days once a year with full pay met with the officials in Rocky Mount and a compromise was effected by which the agents get a 12 1/2 per cent increase in salary and no vacation except such as the officials see fit to grant.

FRANK FUTRELL INJURED.

Mr. Frank Futrell, son of Mr. J. T. Futrell, who operates the saw mill near the local power plant, had the misfortune to get thrown off the carriage at the mill early Monday morning, the impact with that machine breaking out a tooth or two and otherwise shaking him up. He consulted a dentist, who put him in temporary order again.

PERSONALS

Buck Darden is home from Franklin, Va., for a few days with his people.

Mrs. R. A. McParland is visiting relatives in Virginia.

Hon. W. W. Kitchin of Raleigh spent a few days here with relatives this week.

Mr. William Bradley, who enlisted in the Tarboro company last week as at home yesterday and today.

Charlie Lamb spent the week end at home with his relatives. He has been on the road for the Gold Bond Hat Co., of New York City and reports success.